

the way to look at devolution is about governance. If at all we take this Constitution without looking at the elements of devolution properly, then I am afraid we have missed the boat. We should be very courageous and brave because in 1963, resources were going to the regions. It was not by changing the Constitution that the regions went but by starving the regions of funds and even the power to tax the regions. That is how the regions were killed. But when the regions were working, even hon. Ngala was feeling better and safer as the president of the Coast region rather than being a Member of Parliament here.

The other thing that we are addressing through devolution is exclusion. What has made us suffer as a nation is exclusion. Once people feel excluded, even when you want to employ a policeman or constable or you want to build a dispensary, it must come from the centre. In the colonial days, these things were being done on the ground and they could give bursaries and build roads. I commend devolution. Those who fear devolution are living in the past. They are being guided by their ethnic consideration and objectives. They are living in the past. If America was living in a situation where they feared ethnicity and did not see itself as a multiparty state or nation, how could a young man born here in Kenya, who is not even a native American, become the President of America? It is because they did away with exclusion. What has killed us here is exclusion; that once Mr. Orendo is President, I know of no other place than Ugenya. That is why we were fighting against these many Presidencies in the past. I hope that Kenya will come of age. This country must come of age. People want freedom and nations want liberation, but countries want independence.

I beg to support.

Prof. Kamar: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this historic Motion. I would like to support it with amendments and I will be mentioning which ones.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, allow me, first, to congratulate those who have participated in the process of Constitution-making in this country. I want to recognize the veterans – the Orendos and Imanyaras – past and present. I also want to remember to recognize the Bomas group of delegates that gave us the first Draft (2004). I also want to remember the Committee of Experts (CoE) and our own Parliamentary Select Committee. These people have done a commendable job. The Constitution making process has been very long and tedious. Sometimes it has been acrimonious and tempers have gone up and down. But all in all, the process has brought us this far and we must thank God for that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is instructive to note that while it has taken a very long time, there are some areas that have consistently remained in all the drafts that we have today. As we consider that, we are reminded of why Kenyans wanted to have a Constitution, to begin with. In the preamble, there is a statement that says: “We, the people of Kenya adopt, enact and give to ourselves and our future generation this Constitution.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must ensure that Kenyans get a new Constitution that will serve them and the future generations. How do we ensure this? We must ensure this by ensuring that the Proposed Constitution is good for all, fair to all and serves all. This may require the spirit of give and take, but it must all be inclusive and non exclusive. The eyes of the nation are focused on this House. We must rise to the occasion